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CLASSIFICATION  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT 1. Armored Activity, Cottbus Area  
2. Exchange of Officers, Zossen-Wunsdorf  
3. Police Training, Jüterbog

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Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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Next Review Date: 2008

- 25X1A
- On or about 15 December 1948, an armored division evacuated the Cottbus-Spremberg-Weisswasser area (A57-55-74) and moved to the Bautzen-Görlitz area. Another armored unit of unknown strength from the latter district moved into the vacated Cottbus region.

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Comment: This geographical exchange is not clearly substantiated by [redacted] confined to the Cottbus area and who seemingly attempts to prove the evacuation by the absence of troops in Weisswasser. It is believed that Cottbus has been held by 9 Mech Cadre Division, and all vehicle [redacted] as being among the new arrivals belong to this division. Instead of an exchange of units, possibly an increase in the strength of 9 Mech Cadre Division is indicated.) Customer comments will be appreciated.)

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- On 15 December, a freight train with twenty-eight T-34/85 tanks arrived in Cottbus and was routed to Spremberg, where the tanks were unloaded and driven to the former German AT barracks. Local residents state that sixty tanks arrived at these barracks between 10 and 16 December. Trucks assisting the move were [redacted]. Most troops wore black tabs/red piping, though some wore completely black tabs. Five two-storey barracks in Spremberg are occupied and twelve other buildings are being repaired. Estimated troop strength: 1,000 men.

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Comment: [redacted] also passes on a military bakery employee's statement that 10,000 loaves of bread are baked daily at Spremberg for Soviet military and civilian consumption, but no allocation figures are given.)

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- The new arrivals at Cottbus-Sachsendorf total approximately 2,000 men wearing black tabs/red piping. The large number of high-ranking officers seen entering and leaving the barracks may indicate the presence of a divisional headquarters. According to local inhabitants, twenty-five tanks arrived between 15 and 16 [redacted] within the compound. A large Mercedes [redacted] flag and a golden Soviet star was parked in front of the barracks; nearby was an Opel-Olympia [redacted]. All vehicles at the barracks were [redacted].

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-2-

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4. No replacements appear to have arrived in Weisswasser for the units of the armored division which moved out on or about 15 December. The approximately 100 troops remaining belong to the local Komendatura.
5. According to a Soviet captain stationed in the Zossen-Wunsdorf area, a heavy exchange of officers is now taking place. Most of the officer replacements arriving from Russia are young bachelors; those who are married are not allowed to bring dependents with them.

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**Comment:** This statement is being checked to determine whether or not such an exchange of officers is limited to Zossen-Wunsdorf or ~~if it applies~~ to the Russian Zone.)

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6. New German police have been observed training with T-34 tanks and 76.2 mm AT guns at the Jüterbog police school. Eight JS-1 tanks were seen on the grounds opposite the Altes Lager police school, as well as trucks

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